

Amendments to the Claims

1-15. (Cancelled).

16. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for electronic trading~~ comprising:

~~receiving bid or offer an order[[s]] from placed by a trader;~~  
~~receiving a trade command to hit or take at least one of the orders;~~  
~~calculating a quantity of orders placed by the trader;~~  
~~qualifying the trader, based on the quantity of orders, for an incentive, in which the~~  
~~incentive provides the trader with a period of exclusivity during which only orders from the~~  
~~trader are processed; and~~  
~~processing orders placed by the trader in exclusion of other orders during the period~~  
~~of exclusivity~~  
~~determining whether the trader qualifies for an incentive for making a market~~  
~~associated with the orders received based upon a volume of the orders received from the~~  
~~trader; and~~  
~~for a period of time, providing the trader with an exclusive trading opportunity related~~  
~~to a trade that occurs in response to the trader command if the trader qualifies for the~~  
~~incentive.~~

17-24. (Cancelled).

25. (Withdrawn) A method for electronic trading comprising:

receiving bid or offer orders from a trader;  
receiving a trade command to hit or take at least one of the orders;  
determining whether the trader qualifies for an incentive for making a market  
associated with the orders received based upon a spread of the orders received from the  
trader; and  
for a period of time, providing the trader with an exclusive trading opportunity related  
to a trade that occurs in response to the trade command if the trader qualifies for the  
incentive.

26. (Withdrawn) A method for electronic trading comprising:

receiving bid or offer orders from a trader;  
receiving a trade command to hit or take at least one of the orders;  
determining whether the trader qualifies for an incentive for making a market associated with the orders received based upon a price of the orders received from the trader;  
and  
for a period of time, providing the trader with an exclusive trading opportunity related to a trade that occurs in response to the trade command if the trader qualifies for the incentive.

27-56. (Cancelled).

57. (Currently Amended) ~~An electronic trading~~ A system comprising:

at least one computing workstation coupled to a central processing unit via a network, wherein the central processing unit is configured to:

~~receive bid or offer an order[[s]] from~~ placed by a trader;  
~~receive a trade command to hit or take at least one of the orders;~~  
calculate a quantity of orders placed by the trader;  
qualify the trader, based on the quantity of orders, for an incentive, in which  
the incentive provides the trader with a period of exclusivity during which only orders  
from the trader are processed; and  
processing orders placed by the trader in exclusion of other orders during the period  
of exclusivity  
~~determine whether the trader qualifies for an incentive for making a market~~  
~~associated with the orders received based upon a volume of the orders received from~~  
~~the trader; and~~  
for a period of time, provide the trader with an exclusive trading opportunity  
related to a trade that occurs in response to the trade command if the trader qualifies  
for the incentive.

58. (Cancelled).

59. (Withdrawn) An electronic trading system comprising:

at least one computing workstation coupled to a central processing unit via a network,  
wherein the central processing unit is configured to:

receive bid or offer orders from a trader;

receive a trade command to hit or take at least one of the orders;

determine whether the trader qualifies for an incentive for making a market  
associated with the orders received based upon a spread of the orders received from  
the trader; and

for a period of time, provide the trader with an exclusive trading opportunity  
related to a trade that occurs in response to the trade command if the trader qualifies  
for the incentive.

60. (Withdrawn) An electronic trading system comprising:

at least one computing workstation coupled to a central processing unit via a network,  
wherein the central processing unit is configured to:

receive bid or offer orders from a trader;

receive a trade command to hit or take at least one of the orders;

determine whether the trader qualifies for an incentive for making a market  
associated with the orders received based upon a price of the orders received from the  
trader; and

for a period of time, provide the trader with an exclusive trading opportunity  
related to a trade that occurs in response to the trade command if the trader qualifies  
for the incentive.

61-66. (Cancelled).

67. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for electronic trading~~ comprising:

receiving an order[[s]] ~~from~~ placed by a trader;  
calculating a quantity of orders placed by the trader;  
qualifying the trader, based on the quantity of orders, for an incentive, in which the  
incentive provides the trader with a period of priority during which orders place by the trader  
are processed in advance of other orders placed by other traders; and  
processing orders placed by the trader in advance of other orders during the period of  
priority  
~~determining whether the trader qualifies for an incentive for making a market~~  
~~associated with the orders received based upon a volume of the orders received from the~~  
~~trader; and~~  
~~for a period of time, providing the trader with an exclusive trading opportunity as an~~  
~~incentive for making the market.~~

68. (Cancelled).

69. (Withdrawn) A method for electronic trading comprising:

receiving orders from a trader;  
determining whether the trader qualifies for an incentive for making a market  
associated with the orders received based upon a spread of the orders received from the  
trader; and  
for a period of time, providing the trader with an exclusive trading opportunity as an  
incentive for making the market.

70. (Withdrawn) A method for electronic trading comprising:

receiving orders from a trader;  
determining whether the trader qualifies for an incentive for making a market  
associated with the orders received based upon a price of the orders received from the trader;  
and

for a period of time, providing the trader with an exclusive trading opportunity as an incentive for making the market.

71-82. (Cancelled).

83. (Currently Amended) ~~An electronic trading~~ A system comprising:

at least one computing workstation coupled to a central processing unit via a network, wherein the central processing unit is configured to:

receive an order~~[[s]]~~ ~~from~~ placed by a trader;

calculate a quantity of orders placed by the trader;

qualify the trader, based on the quantity of orders, for an incentive, in which the incentive provides the trader with a period of priority during which orders place by the trader are processed in advance of other orders placed by other traders; and process orders placed by the trader in advance of other orders during the period of priority

~~determine whether the trader qualifies for an incentive for making a market associated with the orders received based upon a volume of the orders received from the trader; and~~

~~for a period of time, provide the trader with an exclusive trading opportunity as a incentive for making the market.~~

84. (Cancelled).

85. (Withdrawn) An electronic trading system comprising:

at least one computing workstation coupled to a central processing unit via a network, wherein the central processing unit is configured to:

receive bid or offer orders from a trader;

determine whether the trader qualifies for an incentive for making a market associated with the orders received based upon a spread of the orders received from the trader; and

for a period of time, provide the trader with an exclusive trading opportunity related to a trade that occurs in response to the trade command if the trader qualifies for the incentive.

86. (Withdrawn) An electronic trading system comprising:

at least one computing workstation coupled to a central processing unit via a network, wherein the central processing unit is configured to:

receive bid or offer orders from a trader;

determine whether the trader qualifies for an incentive for making a market associated with the orders received based upon a price of the orders received from the trader; and

for a period of time, provide the trader with an exclusive trading opportunity related to a trade that occurs in response to the trade command if the trader qualifies for the incentive.

87. (Cancelled).

91. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 16, further comprising operating a network server to communicate with a plurality of workstations and to receive bids and offers for at least one item from at least one of the plurality of workstations, and wherein at least one of a group consisting of 1) at least one of the plurality of workstations and 2) the network server, is adapted for performing the method.

92. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 25, further comprising operating a network server to communicate with a plurality of workstations and to receive bids and offers for at least one item from at least one of the plurality of workstations, and wherein at least one of a group consisting of 1) at least one of the plurality of workstations and 2) the network server, is adapted for performing the method.

93. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 26, further comprising operating a network server to communicate with a plurality of workstations and to receive bids and offers for at least one item from at least one of the plurality of workstations, and wherein at least one of a group consisting of 1) at least one of the plurality of workstations and 2) the network server, is adapted for performing the method.

94. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67, further comprising operating a network server to communicate with a plurality of workstations and to receive orders for at least one item from at least one of the plurality of workstations, and wherein at least one of a group consisting of 1) at least one of the plurality of workstations and 2) the network server, is adapted for performing the method.

95. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 69, further comprising operating a network server to communicate with a plurality of workstations and to receive orders for at least one item from at least one of the plurality of workstations, and wherein at least one of the group consisting of 1) at least one of the plurality of workstations and 2) the network server, is adapted for performing the method.

96. (Withdrawn) The method of claim 70, further comprising operating a network server to communicate with a plurality of workstations and to receive orders for at least one item from at least one of the plurality of workstations, and wherein at least one of the group consisting of 1) at least one of the plurality of workstations and 2) the network server, is adapted for performing the method.

97. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for electronic trading~~ comprising:  
receiving ~~bid or offer~~ an order ~~from~~ placed by a trader;  
qualifying the trader for an incentive, in which the incentive provides the trader with:  
(a) a period of exclusivity during which orders from the trader are placed in  
advance of other trader's orders; and

(b) a period of priority during which orders place by the trader are processed in advance of other orders placed by other traders  
determining whether the trader qualifies for an incentive for making a market associated with the orders received; and  
for a period of time, providing the trader with an exclusive trading opportunity related to a trade that occurs in response to the trader command if the trader qualifies for the incentive.

98. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 97, wherein determining whether qualifying the trader qualifies for an incentive is based upon a size of the orders received from the trader.

99. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 97, wherein determining whether qualifying the trader qualifies for an incentive is based upon a duration of the orders received from the trader.

100. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 97, wherein determining whether qualifying the trader qualifies for an incentive is based upon cancellations of earlier orders by the trader.

101. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 97, wherein determining whether qualifying the trader qualifies for an incentive is based upon a credit rating of the trader.

102. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 97, further comprising:  
determining how to provide the incentive to the trader and another incentive to another trader when both the incentive and the other incentive are due concurrently.

103. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 97, further comprising:  
enabling the trader to determine incentives that have been earned by the trader in substantially real-time as the incentives are earned.



104. (Currently Amended) ~~An electronic trading~~ A system comprising:  
at least one computing workstation coupled to a central processing unit via a network,  
wherein the central processing unit is configured to:

receive ~~bid or offer~~ an order[~~s~~] ~~from~~ placed by a trader;  
qualify the trader for an incentive, in which the incentive provides the trader

with:

(a) a period of exclusivity during which orders from the trader are placed  
in advance of other trader's orders; and

(b) a period of priority during which orders place by the trader are  
processed in advance of other orders placed by other traders

~~determine whether the trader qualifies for an incentive for making a market~~  
~~associated with the orders received; and~~

~~for a period of time, provide the trader with an exclusive trading opportunity~~  
~~related to a trade that occurs in response to the trade command if the trader qualifies~~  
~~for the incentive.~~

105. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 104, wherein ~~determining whether~~  
qualifying the trader ~~qualifies~~ for an incentive is based upon a size of the orders received  
from the trader.

106. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 104, wherein ~~determining whether~~  
qualifying the trader ~~qualifies~~ for an incentive is based upon a duration of the orders received  
from the trader.

107. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 104, wherein ~~determining whether~~  
qualifying the trader ~~qualifies~~ for an incentive is based upon cancellations of earlier orders by  
the trader.

108. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 104, wherein ~~determining whether~~  
qualifying the trader ~~qualifies~~ for an incentive is based upon a credit rating of the trader.

109. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 104, wherein the central processing unit is further configured to:

determine how to provide the incentive to the trader and another incentive to another trader when both the incentive and the other incentive are due concurrently.

110. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 104, wherein the central processing unit is further configured to:

enable the trader to determine incentives that have been earned by the trader in substantially real-time as the incentives are earned.

111. (Previously Presented) A method for electronic trading comprising:

receiving orders from a trader;

determining whether the trader qualifies for an incentive for making a market associated with the orders received; and

for a period of time, providing the trader with an exclusive trading opportunity as an incentive for making the market.

112. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 111, wherein the determining whether the trader qualifies for an incentive is based upon a size of the orders received from the trader.

113. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 111, wherein the determining whether the trader qualifies for an incentive is based upon a duration of the orders received from the trader.

114. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 111, wherein the determining whether the trader qualifies for an incentive is based upon cancellations of earlier orders by the trader.

115. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 111, wherein determining whether the trader qualifies for an incentive is based upon a credit rating of the trader.

116. (Previously Presented) An electronic trading system comprising:  
at least one computing workstation coupled to a central processing unit via a network, wherein the central processing unit is configured to:  
receiving orders from a trader;  
determining whether the trader qualifies for an incentive for making a market associated with the orders received; and  
for a period of time, providing the trader with an exclusive trading opportunity as an incentive for making the market.

117. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 116, wherein the determining whether the trader qualifies for an incentive is based upon a size of the orders received from the trader.

118. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 116, wherein the determining whether the trader qualifies for an incentive is based upon a duration of the orders received from the trader.

119. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 116, wherein the determining whether the trader qualifies for an incentive is based upon cancellations of earlier orders by the trader.

120. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 116, wherein the determining whether the trader qualifies for an incentive is based upon a credit rating of the trader.